



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Colorado Delegation Departs Thursday for 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games

**DENVER, Colo.** -- Four representatives from Special Olympics Colorado will depart Denver Thursday en route to the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho. Athletes **Brydie Charles (Aurora)** and **Josh Reynolds (Greeley)** will compete in snowshoeing. In addition, two Special Olympics Colorado state staff members -- Jenny McVoy (snowshoeing) and Rob Porreca (alpine skiing) -- will serve as assistant sports managers for Special Olympics Team USA at the Games.

After months of training and preparation, Charles and Reynolds will join their teammates at the largest sporting event of the year -- the World Winter Games. The seven-day event kicks off Saturday (Feb. 7) with Opening Ceremonies and continues with competition in seven sports -- alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding, snowshoe racing and speed skating -- through Feb. 13. Members of Team USA depart their respective airports around the country Thursday destined to Salt Lake City, Utah, where they will then travel to Boise by bus Friday. Colorado's delegation leaves Denver International Airport for Salt Lake City Thursday at 11:50 a.m.

Special Olympics Team USA is comprised of 330 athletes and 120 coaches from nearly every state and the District of Columbia. The U.S. delegation will be the largest at the Games. Overall nearly 2,500 athletes from 104 countries will compete at the World Games. In addition, the event will draw 6,000 volunteers, 800 event officials and thousands of families, spectators and journalists from every continent. Family and friends will be able to watch highlights of the World Games and follow their favorite athletes at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).

This past December, Special Olympics Team USA converged on Copper Mountain for a four-day training camp. The athletes have been training in their home communities throughout the past year. The athletes selected for Special Olympics Team USA qualified through their own Special Olympics State Winter Games.

Charles has competed in snowshoeing for eight years. This will be her first appearance at a World Games event. A Special Olympics Global Messenger, she also competes in aquatics, bowling, cycling and track & field. She credits participation in Special Olympics for teaching her team spirit and discipline. Attending the World Games has been a lifelong goal for the 21-year old multiple gold medalist.

Reynolds has participated in snowshoeing for just over one year. This will be his first World Games appearance. A four-year participant in Special Olympics, he also competes in basketball, soccer and swimming. This past fall, Reynolds enhanced his training for the World Games by joining his school's cross country team. The 13-year old credits Special Olympics for providing him opportunities to compete and meet people in an environment of acceptance.

### About Special Olympics

Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition to nearly 3 million adults and children with intellectual disabilities across 180 countries. The Special Olympics movement offers one of the world's greatest platforms for acceptance and inclusion for all people--regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or cultural differences. Find out how you can become involved at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).

Special Olympics Colorado celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2009. The organization held its first event -- Summer Games -- at Aurora Hinkley High School in 1969. Four hundred athletes participated in the one-day track and field competition. Today the organization serves nearly 10,000 athletes with a volunteer base of over 6,000 and provides opportunities to train and compete in 20 Olympic-type sports year-round with more than 80 competitions throughout the year. For more information on Special Olympics Colorado, visit [www.specialolympicsco.org](http://www.specialolympicsco.org).

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**If you are a fan of courage, then you are a fan of Special Olympics**